

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A natural evaporation type humidifier, comprising:
a humidifying element, which is absorptive, including a plurality of humidifying segments by folding a sheet-shaped absorptive member; and
a case which is free to open and close having an inner space where said humidifying element is stored,
wherein a position of said humidifying element changes when said case is opened.
2. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said humidifying element deforms and extends when said case is opened.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said humidifying element is free to attach to and detach from said case.

5. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidifying element.
6. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 5, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.
7. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein said inner space is a liquid reservoir to store liquid for moistening said humidifying element.
8. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of humidifying segments are connected by a connecting portion, wherein a part of every humidifying segment is soaked in the liquid in said liquid reservoir.
9. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 8, wherein said connecting portion to connect said plurality of humidifying segments are a plurality of fold portions, and said plurality of humidifying segments are bellows-shaped by folding said plurality of fold portions.
10. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 9, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at the position of said fold portion of said humidifying element.

11. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 10, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

12. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion having a first open retaining engagement device and a second case portion having a second open retaining engagement device to engage with said first open retaining engagement device, and

wherein said first case portion and said second case portion are fixed by engaging said first open retaining engagement device and said second open retaining engagement device, when said first case portion and said second case portion are opened.

13. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and said inner space for storing said humidifying element is formed in both of said first case portion and said second case portion, and

wherein one end of said humidifying element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said first case portion, and the other end of said humidifying element is fixed being free to attach to and detach from said second case portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 13,

wherein one end of one humidifying element is fixed to said first case portion, and one end of the other humidifying element is fixed to said second case portion, and wherein the other ends of said humidifying elements which are not fixed to said case are connected by a deformable connect member.

15. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1,

wherein said case comprises a first case portion and a second case portion, and one end of said humidifying element is attached to said first case portion, and the other end is attached to said second case portion, and

wherein a water receiving portion is disposed as a liquid reservoir made of water-repellant material being free to extend and contract, as one end is attached to said first case portion and the other end is attached to said second case portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said humidifying element is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 15, wherein said water receiving portion is free to attach to and detach from said first case portion and said second case portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein a first locating device is formed in said case to engage with said

humidifying element, and a second locating device is formed at said humidify element to engage with said first locating device.

19. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, comprising a blower at the vicinity of said humidifying element, wherein said humidifying element receives blown air from said blower.

20. (Currently Amended) A humidifying element comprising a plurality of humidifying segments by folding a sheet-shaped absorptive member along a center fold portion that is formed as a zig-zag shape and a plurality of sectional fold portions along with a sheet-shaped absorptive member in order to compose said plurality of humidifying segments.

21. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of humidifying segments are displaced having the folding position as a boundary.

22. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 20, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidifying segment.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 20, wherein a slit is formed along said center fold portion.

25. (Currently Amended) The humidifying element according to claim 20,
~~comprising a plurality of humidifying segments defined by said center fold portion and a plurality of sectional fold portions, wherein the member~~ said plurality of humidifying segments folded into two along said center fold portion [[is]] are folded approximately perpendicular to said center fold portion at said plurality of sectional fold portions into a bellows shape.

26. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 25, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said sectional fold portion.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 25, wherein the folding direction changes every time said center fold portion crosses said sectional fold portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 25, comprising:

a connecting segment which connects to at least one humidifying segment for binding up one end of all said plurality of humidifying segments;
a first engagement device which is formed at said connect segment; and
a second engagement device which is formed at least at one humidifying segment for engaging with said first engagement device.

30. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 29, wherein said first engagement device is one of an insert segment and a slit, and said second engagement device is the other of an insert segment and a slit.

31. (Previously Presented) A humidifying element comprising a plurality of absorptive humidifying segments which one end is connected by a connecting portion.

32. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 31, wherein a slit or a notch is formed at said humidifying segment.

33. (Previously Presented) The humidifying element according to claim 32, wherein said slit or said notch is wave-shaped.

34. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to claim 1, wherein the case includes

a link portion to which said humidifying element is fixed being free to attach and detach.

35. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 34, comprising a first case portion and second case portion;

wherein said link portion is formed at least at either said first case portion or said second case portion, being an arm portion to sandwich a part of said humidifying element by forming a gap with an inner wall of said first and second case portions.

36. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:

a first closure retaining engagement device which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is closed; and

a second closure retaining engagement device which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first closure retaining engagement device.

37. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 36, wherein said first closure retaining engagement device is a deform member which is displaced by external force, and said second closure retaining engagement device is a projection which is disposed at a cover, and

wherein said projection links with and unlinks from said deform member in accordance with the displacement of said deform member.

38. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, comprising:

a first open retaining engagement device which is disposed at said first case portion to retain a state that said case is opened; and

a second open retaining engagement device which is disposed at said second case portion to engage with said first open retaining engagement device.

39. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35, wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening portion of said reservoir, and

wherein a liquid discharge gap for connecting said inner space with outside is formed at said reservoir.

40. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35,
wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir
which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening
portion of said reservoir, and
wherein a retaining device for retaining said humidifying element is formed in
said reservoir.
41. (Previously Presented) The humidifier case according to claim 35,
wherein one of said first case portion and said second case portion is a reservoir
which has said inner space, and the other is a cover to open and close the opening
portion of said reservoir, and
wherein a locating device for engaging with said humidifying element is formed
in said reservoir.
42. (Previously Presented) The natural evaporation type humidifier according to
claim 1, wherein said sheet-shaped member is folded along a central fold portion that
is formed as a zig-zag shape.
43. (New) The humidifier element according to claim 20, wherein neighboring
sectional fold portions do not contact each other.